



November 2022

November 11
November 23, 24, 25
November 30

Veterans Day - no school
Thanksgiving Break - no school
Board meeting 7:30



Notes from the Head of School

It's been a few days, but wow am I still on a Harvest Festival High! The planning starts months in advance and this year was a bit different than in years past as the Parents Association was without official leadership until Alex Casamassima and Stephanie McGarry stepped up to the plate (most likely in response to the panic in my eyes at the first meeting!)

While those two hardworking women did so much, there are so many others who also jumped in to help. I remember my predecessor saying years ago "If you want someone to help, ask a busy person because they know how to balance it all". To all the very busy families who volunteered to help, we thank you.

Of course there are always bumps and hiccups along the way, and each year we learn a little more on how to make everything run as smoothly as possible. And honestly, the thing that stresses me out the most is the one thing I have the least control over - good ol' Mother Nature. She certainly delivered on October 22 and we had the best weather I have remembered in years for the Fest.

We may not have raised a million dollars, but the Festival was a massive success. That same predecessor (she was one smart cookie!) also would say that the Harvest Festival is a "FRIENDraiser" as much as a "Fundraiser". Hopefully you made some connections at the Festival, perhaps you met the family that your child has been talking about, or you reconnected with someone who you haven't seen in years and you realized your children both attend Berrybrook. Many friendships are made here, and not just in classroom. I run into families who attended years ago who say some of their own closest friendships were made on the Berrybrook playground while their children were playing, and they have been friends forever!

"Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget."
Hellen Keller.

~ Mrs. Watts

Teacher's Notes

Parent - Teacher Conferences

Building a strong home-school connection is absolutely essential, especially at the preschool level. At Berrybrook, we put a lot of effort into creating that connection through ongoing communication between teachers and parents. One of the important ways we do this is by meeting with families twice a year to hold our fall and spring parent/teacher conferences. These scheduled meeting times provide us with an opportunity to share with you all that your child is learning and experiencing at Berrybrook.

Before meeting with your child's teacher, you will receive an assessment form showing your child's development at that point during the school year. We as teachers provide learning goals which are appropriate to the age and development of the children within each program. We then observe and document your child's progress throughout the year. Some people mistakenly believe that preschool children simply "play" while at school, but there is nothing simple about it. At this age level, "play" is their "work"; it's how they learn. There is much for teachers to observe while children are enjoying their very important "work".

Each child learns developmentally at their own pace reaching milestones along the way. There are many factors that affect how a child learns, such as: personality, temperament, learning styles, and interests. The Berrybrook assessment forms cover eight different areas of development. We do not use a "grading system" of check marks or other letters in an attempt to show measurement of performance. Instead, you will see descriptions of how your child's progression of learning and understanding among each criteria within a developmental area. These descriptions provide a true reflection of how your child is developing in each area of our curriculum.

You will receive the assessment form before meeting with your child's teacher. This gives you time to review it and come up with any questions you may have prior to the conference. It is also a wonderful time for us to paint a picture of what your child is experiencing in class, and all they are learning. We will show you how they are learning in a relaxed, meaningful and joyful way... just the way learning should be at this age!

Soon, you will receive an email asking you to sign up for a time to meet with one of your child's teachers. Berrybrook teachers truly look forward to conferences. It is a special time, carved out just for you to discuss your unique child and all the amazing things they are learning and doing here at school.

~ Mrs. Bonner

Mrs. Bonner teaches the 5 Day class

Parent Association Notes

Thank you all for supporting this year's Harvest Festival! It was wonderful to see so many families, and we hope you all enjoyed the day as much as we did! A **huge** thank you to everyone who volunteered their time or donated financially to the event. Whether it was a monetary contribution, themed basket, scratch tickets, refreshments, or decorations, we truly couldn't have done it without you! As a reminder, all of the proceeds from the Harvest Festival will support future enrichment programs for the children.

Our first Family Fun Friday at Sauchuk Pumpkin Patch & Corn Maze had a great turnout! What a gorgeous day we had! Thank you to all who attended! Our next Family Fun Friday event is planned for Friday, November 18th at Plaster Fun Time in Plymouth. Be on the lookout for more information, and sign up links soon!

berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com



Colder weather is on its way.....

As the weather changes, be sure to dress children appropriately for outdoor play including the Nook. Now is a good time to locate all hats, mittens, gloves, and warm jackets that will be necessary as we head into November. Once the snow flies, children should bring snow pants and snow boots with them every day. Children are welcome to keep slippers, sneakers, or crocs at school to make sure they are comfortable in the classroom.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO LABEL ALL CLOTHING WITH
YOUR CHILD'S NAME.**

From The Board of Directors

As a mom of a Beginner, this year I was reminded how hard it is (for both parent and child) to drop off a little one at school for their first year. Though I know that so many incredible firsts await them inside, for a three year old it often takes some convincing. Even though my Beginner has had his older brother to walk him in, it's the amazing teachers who save us every morning. As we arrive and the tears start flowing, we are greeted by a warm hello, a compliment about our light up shoes, and an invitation to come in and play trains (Charlie's favorite). Berrybrook teachers have a unique way of making every child feel special and safe. I know as I drive away that my boys will spend their time laughing, learning, singing, growing and cultivating lifelong friendships.

While saying goodbye those first few weeks is gut wrenching, it is so rewarding to now see my oldest son walk in with such happiness and confidence. It's hard to believe it is his last year here (wow how time flies!!). I have loved seeing how him and his classmates have grown into such respectful, curious, and kind people over their years at Berrybrook. I know that he will carry the things he has learned and the friendships he has made with him for the rest of his life.

“A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for.” John A Shedd

Allison Cayzer

Berrybrook Board of Directors



Snow Days/School Cancellation



It is our policy to cancel classes whenever Duxbury Public Schools are closed due to weather emergencies. Families should watch Channel 7, WHDH for a school cancellation at Berrybrook. Every attempt at notification will be made through email messages, text messages, phone calls via OneCallNow and/or social media.

In the event Duxbury Public Schools require a one hour delay, Berrybrook will have the usual 9 am arrival time.

***In the event Duxbury Public Schools require a two hour delay, the AM session will be cancelled as well as Lunch Bunch.**

A Season of Giving

Kingston Animal Shelter Donations

The month of November, as everyone knows, is traditionally the start of the holiday season. Here at Berrybrook, it is the time of year that teachers share yet another meaningful tradition with the introduction of a Berrybrook Community Service Project that was started many years ago. Families may bring in donations of supplies needed to benefit the Kingston Animal Shelter. To receive these donations, boxes will be decorated by the children in each class with cut-out pictures of dogs, cats, and other animals. These boxes will be placed near the front door to collect items brought to school. There will also be “Pennies For The Pound” jars in the classrooms for the children to add their coins brought from home. There will be class discussions about “what is an animal shelter?”, “adoption of pets”, and “being respectful of all living things.” It is important for children to develop empathy and practice kindness. Taking care of pets and other animals is a meaningful way for children to develop these traits. Any and all donations will be appreciated by the animals and the shelter. Thank you for your help!

Some of the items needed are:

- * Lowes, Petsmart, Petco, etc. gift cards
- * Spic N’ Span (liquid) Cleaner
- * Nylabones/Hard chew toys (No Rawhide)
- * Dog Treats
- * Paper towels/Brooms/Dust Pans
- * Canned Pumpkin(100% pumpkin)
- * Wet Canned Cat Food - Paté style
- * HE Laundry Detergent and Bleach
- * Dog Safe Peanut Butter (Xylitol Free)
- * Dry and Wet Dog Food - Gastrointestinal/Sensitive Stomach





2022

Harvest Festival

Thank you to our corporate sponsors



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Most importantly, a GIANT thank you
to the families of our amazing school!

Your donations of time, goods, money, and support
are what help make Berrybrook unique!